



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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Upcoming survey information is contained in this release.  
You can also find it on our site at [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/) and  
click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## USDA TO STUDY FARMERS' PRODUCTION PRACTICES

HARRISBURG, PA, August 26, 2011 – With volatile weather and variable planting conditions this spring, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon begin contacting producers to learn about their actual production practices during the 2011 growing season. As part of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Economic Research Service (ERS) will gather data on farmers' chemical use, pest management and irrigation practices for barley and sorghum.

"Conducted every fall, ARMS serves as the primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm operations and farm households," said Kevin Pautler, Director, Pennsylvania NASS Field Office. "The survey results help agricultural leaders and decision-makers better understand how producers cope with risk, adapt to policy changes, and make decisions about chemical use, new technologies and many other aspects of farming."

Beginning in October, NASS representatives will conduct face-to-face interviews with 8,000 growers nationwide, including 150 barley operations in Pennsylvania. This will be the first time since 2003 that the ARMS survey has focused on sorghum and barley production.

"When contacted, producers will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient, bio-control and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management and irrigation practices," added Pautler. "Early next year, we will follow up with some of the participants to obtain additional economic data."

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or grower can be identified.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov), or call the NASS Pennsylvania Field Office at 717-787-3904.